

REMARKS

Claims 29 and 32 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 30 and 33 respectively, and claims 30 and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-29, 31, 32 and 34 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1-28 are allowed. Claims 1, 15, 29 and 32 are the independent claims. No new matter is presented in this Response.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 29, 31, 32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tonami (U.S. Patent 6,765,856) in view of Hutchins et al (U.S. Patent 5,568,465).

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 29 and 32, it is noted that claims 29 and 32 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 30 and 33, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 29 and 32 are allowable and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 29 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of dependent claims 31 and 34, it is noted that these claims are allowable at least because of their dependency from claims 29 and 32, and because they include additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 31 and 34 also distinguish over the prior art.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 1-28 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Claims 30 and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the

application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

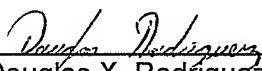
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

Date: 9/13/07

By: 
Douglas X. Rodriguez
Registration No. 47,269

1400 Eye Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: (202) 216-9505
Facsimile: (202) 216-9510